

## [Mogollons of the Early Days]

[Morris Coates age 84

Frances [?] Totty?]

July 5, [1938?]

JUL [??] [2n?]

Mogollons of the Early Days.

Mogollon is a proper noun and a common noun also, the mountains received their name from the early Jesuit Fathers from the parasitical growth of mistletoe upon the oaks, cottonwood and other tree of the forest for the word mogollon means a "[hanger?] on, a parasite, "the Jesuit Fathers were in the district in 1675 and this is really the source from which the place received the name of Mogollon, but nearly a century later-October 5, 1712-the Spanish government appointed Juan Ignacio Flores Mogollon Governor and Captain-General of all the vast empire embraced within the limits of the States of Texas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, California, Arizona, and New Mexico.

In 1878 Jim Keller, Maurice [Coates?], John Roberts, W.H. Beavers, Robert Stubblefield and Morris Smith and family left Prescott Arizona for the Frisco Valley, and settled where [Klam?] is now situated.

Late in May of 1879 we were out in the field plowing when a roving band of Apaches, five in number, fired upon us, we made a rush for the house and after getting our guns we crossed the Frisco river up into the Cedars, we were at the present site of Glenwood when we saw the Indians coming. Deming was going on down the valley to warn the settlers and Houston, Beaver, Keller and I hid, after staking out a horse and a cecoy decoy . We fired

## Library of Congress

on the Indians when they came insight for they had made for the horse as they were all a foot. Deming came back as he was afraid that the Indians were heavily armed and he was taking to much of an risk to continue on down the valley. We fired too low and broke three of the warriors legs, one of the warriors had been left on the hill to watch, and the other when we fired ran up the hill to escape. We camped for the night and the next morning took the trail of the Indian that we had injured that went over the hill we saw an Indian up in the hill covered with a blanket Mr Foster thinking that the warrior was dead lifted up the blanket and was surprised to find that the man had been asleep. Mr Foster / raise his gun to shoot the Indian began to beg for his life, but [my?] Father was so disgusted with the raids of the Indians that he pulled the trigger and blowed the Indians head off. Terrible was a son-in-law of Victorio and was killed by us during the fight, we soon heard that Victorio was on the war-[Path?] as he was going to revenge the death of his son-in-law.

During the month of April, 1880, there were many humors that Victorio was out. Steve, a sub-chief of the Apaches was up, in the hills was up in the [White?] Rocks country camping for Indians on the warpath. Steve was on a hunting trip when Victorio arrived on the scene and tried to get him to throw in with him to attack the settlers in the territory Victorio became angry with Steve because he wouldn't attack the whites, and attacked the sub-chief. Three of Victorio's warriors were killed and Steve left the region.

On April the 28th Victorio made his presence known by appearing at the location of the Conney mine worked by G.C. Williams, Fran Vingo, [?].J. [Brown, Henry Mcallister?] George Doyle, John Lambert, Alex McLaughlin and Serggeant Cooney killing two men. The rest of the party hid out [Eli Mcder and George Williams?] brought the news into the camp that the Indians had attacked and killed two of their group. Jim Cooney and Jack [Chick?] went to [?] to give the [?] while group went Clairmont to give the alarm [while?] George Doyle and John Lambert remained on the grounds. The tribe soon took over the [mining?] camp and burned the cabins around noon one of the braves took a [mirrow?]

## Library of Congress

and tied around his neck. The [squaws?] were soon fighting for a chance to get a glimpse of their dirty features in the [mirrow?].

When Chick and Conney arrived at [?] with the news that Bright man and one other had been killed, we began at once to get out and round up the live stock. We spent the entire night on the range hunting the stock.

Conney and Chick went to the [Meader?] ranch to carry the news and Mr Meader made the remark that well we have the garden planted and I di didn't think the Indians are going to bother us. Mrs Meader remarked that she believed the report and started at once to [mould?] bullets. Cooney desired to return to camp, and Mrs Meader begged him to not leave, but he insisted that he was going and it was not long until the horses of Chick and Cooney returned without riders. When the horses were seen without their riders the alarm was sent out at once Mr Elloit rushed over to the Meader ranch and gave the alarm. The Meader family started at once for the Roberts Ranch. On the way over the Indians fired upon the family and as the wagon was [between?] the house and he the Indians there wasn't much that the people in the cabin could do to help the family [Agnae Meader Snyder?] (living) had an arrow shot through her bonnet was as near as the Indians came to hiting any of the members of the family. Mrs. eader Meader had the people to fill of the barrels and tubs with water before the water was cut off and it was only a short time after the vessels were filled that the ditch was cut.

Five of we men decided to go behind [the house?] and shoot at the Indians they were out there only a short time when they were fired upon. We made a run for the house. I lost my [belt?] of cartridges and pistol.

There [was?] a horse picketed some forty feet from the house. An Indian [?] to get the horse when he raised up to cut the rope he was surprised with a shot from Jim Kellers gun. Some time later when it was decided safe to go out to where the Indian was it was

## Library of Congress

found that he had on the gun that [????] I [had?] lost earlier in the day. The body of the Indian was removed during the night from where it was laying.

Wilcox raised up to look over the barricade an was shot through the 4 heart. The only member of the party to be killed after the fight started.

The name of these in the fight were James Allen, John [Wottsinger?], Harrison [Muttsinger?], [lack ard?], Al Potter, Pete Carpenter, Skelt Williams, Jep Thompson, B.J. [?], [Robert Stubblefield?], Bill Wilcox, Jim Keller, John Foster, Joe [Roberts?], Sarah [Roberts?] George [Roberts?], Grant [Roberts?], John Roberts, J. [??], and wife, Robert Sipes, James Coulter, John Meader J. [M?]. Meader and wife, [??], and Agnes Meader Synder. A rescue party was sent from Silver City to the aid of the besieged, but as the Indians left the morning after the fight and were not to be found.

Maurice [Coates?]